

I do not know any other industry in the United States that has that kind of legal protection. I think that if Congress brought a bill to the floor today to give that type of legal protection to Bridgestone-Firestone, I think every Member who voted for that would be voted out of office.

Now, that was what, 118 or 120 deaths caused by faulty tires. We are talking about millions of decisions made every day by the HMO industry that can affect a person's health, maybe their hands or their feet, or even their life. How can anyone reasonably argue that the House plan, the HMO, should be liable only for the cost of care denied when they make a medical judgment that is clearly negligent and hurts somebody?

I do not know what kind of responsibility we are talking about. We Republicans have been on this floor many, many times talking about how welfare recipients ought to be responsible. By George, if you are able-bodied and you get education and you get help in child care, you are going to have a limited time and you are going to go out and be responsible and get a job. But some people would argue that we ought to not have plans that are making life-and-death decisions responsible. Somehow there is an inconsistency there.

Well, my prediction for this coming year is that we are going to have a very good debate on this issue. If we see Governor Bush in the White House, I wish him the best. I want to see President Bush succeed by being a uniter, not a divider. I want to see him work in a bipartisan fashion. And one of the earliest things that we can do in this coming year is to pass the latest version of the Norwood-Dingell-Ganske bill, pass it by a big margin in the House, big margin in the Senate, send it to President Bush, and have him sign that bill. And I will tell you what. That would go a long ways to getting his administration off to a good start. And I would love to see that.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that we are going to have a lot to do in this coming year. It is a narrow margin that we have here in the House. It is 50-50 tie in the Senate. Some people say, oh, you know, there will just be gridlock and chaos. I am an optimist. I do not see the glass that is half empty. I see this glass as half full. And I think we have a real opportunity to do some things that will benefit our constituents.

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#### HOUR OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2000

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

#### HOUR OF MEETING ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2000

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Wednesday, December 6, 2000, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Thursday, December 7.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

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#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. POMEROY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

Mr. HILL of Montana (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of medical reasons.

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#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. McNULTY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EHRLICH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes, today and December 6, 7, and 8.

Mr. SALMON, for 5 minutes, today.

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#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Wednesday, December 6, 2000, at 2 p.m.

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#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

11147. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the approved retirement and advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list of Vice Admiral Daniel J. Murphy, Jr., United States Navy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

11148. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Consumer Protections for Depository Institution Sales of Insurance [Docket No. 2000-97] (RIN: 1550-AB34) received November 28, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

11149. A letter from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Department of Treasury, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, transmitting the Department's final rule—Consumer Protections for Depository Institution Sales of Insurance [Docket No. 00-26] (RIN: 1557-AB81) received November 29, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

11150. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a transaction involving U.S. exports to India; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

11151. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report on OMB Cost Estimate For Pay-As-You-Go Calculations; to the Committee on the Budget.

11152. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food [Docket No. 99F-1912] received December 4, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11153. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Secondary Direct Food Additives Permitted in Food for Human Consumption [Docket No. 00F-1332] received November 30, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11154. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Primary Drinking Water Regulations; Radionuclides; Final Rule [FRL-6909-3] (RIN: 2040-AC98) received November 29, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11155. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Priorities List for Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites [FRL-6910-4] received November 29, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11156. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Control of Emissions from New Nonroad Spark-Ignition Engines Rated above 19 Kilowatts and New Land-Based Recreational Spark-Ignition Engines [FRL-6907-5] (RIN: 2060-AI11) received November 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11157. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Excess Emissions During Startup, Shutdown, Malfunction and Maintenance [TX-130-1-7473a; FRL-6907-8] received November 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11158. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Petition By American Samoa for Exemption from Anti-Dumping Requirements for Conventional Gasoline [FRL-6908-8] (RIN: 2060-AI60) received November 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11159. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Partial Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule for Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision, San Diego County